

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJ: PRESS SUMMARY - MARCH 26

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS
COVERING IZVESTIYA MARCH 25 (PARAS 2-5) AND
MORNING PRESS MARCH 26 (PARAS 6-7).

2. SECRETARY'S BIOGRAPHY IN IZVESTIYA. TODAY'S
EVENING EDITION OF IZVESTIYA PUBLISHES ON PAGE TWO
A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SECRETARY AND A STRAIGHTFORWARD
BIOGRAPHY OF SIX COLUMN INCHES. THERE IS NO RE-
PORTAGE ON TODAY'S TALKS OR LUNCHEON SPEECHES. THE
TASS STORY OF THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IS CARRIED
ON PAGE ONE OF IZVESTIYA, IN EXACTLY THE SAME POSITION
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AS IN PRAVDA THIS MORNING.

3. PROGRESS IN GENEVA. IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR K. PEREVOSCHIKOV NOTES WITH APPROVAL THE GRADUAL FORWARD MOVEMENT OF CSCE TALKS IN GENEVA AND THE INCREASING OPINION OF THE DELEGATIONS THAT AN ACCELERATION OF WORK TEMPO IS NECESSARY. HE NOTES THE FORMULATION OF TWO OF THE TEN PRINCIPLES IN BASKET ONE, THE DRAFTING OF AGREED TEXTS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF BASKET TWO, AND PROGRESS TOWARD AGREED TEXTS IN BASKET THREE. BUT HE BLAMES SLOWER PROGRESS IN BASKET THREE ON THE EFFORTS OF CERTAIN UNNAMED WESTERN DELEGATIONS TO PERMIT IDEOLOGICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN HERE INITIAL AGREED TEXTS HAVE APPEARED IN CULTURE, EDUCATION AND SCIENCE. THIS MORE POSITIVE PUBLIC APPROACH TO BASKET THREE HAS BEEN TYPICAL OF THE SOVIET PRESS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

4. KOSYGIN-BRATTELI COMMUNIQUE. THE MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST, AS PUBLISHED IN IZVESTIYA, ARE AS FOLLOWS:
--CSCE. THE SIDES EXPRESS READINESS TO WORK FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME. THERE IS NO MENTION OF A SUMMIT.

-- MBFR IS TREATED POSITIVELY IN A FULL PARAGRAPH.

-- MIDDLE EAST. BOTH 242 AND 338 ARE NAMED AS THE BASIS FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A FIRST STEP TO THIS END AND AS AN "ORGANIC PART" OF A GENERAL SETTLEMENT. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD PLAY "AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION OF ASPECTS OF A ME SETTLEMENT." THE COMMUNIQUE IS SILENT ON THE PALESTINIANS.

5. WEST EUROPEAN MILITARY INTEGRATION. SOVIET FEARS OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE STRUCTURE ARE BARED IN A LONG IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY MILITARY PUNDIT D. PROEKTOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE INSTITUTE OF WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PROEKTOR MINCES NO WORDS ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE IDEA -- IT WAS COOKED UP BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AND OF COOPERATION WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

6. VISIT STILL GETTING PROMINENT PLAY. PRAVDA GIVES THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO PRIDE OF PLACE IN THE CENTER OF PAGE ONE. TREATMENT IN THE

OTHER MOSCOW AM'S IS SIMILAR. THE BACK PAGE OF PRAVDA CARRIES A LONG (23-INCH) TASS STORY ON THE GROMYKO LUNCHEON AND EXCHANGE OF TOASTS. IN A NEWSPAPER WHICH HAD TO DEVOTE MORE THAN FOUR OF ITS SIX PAGES TO DELIMITING DISTRICTS FOR THE JUNE 16 ELECTIONS, THE EXTENT OF COVERAGE IS SIGNIFICANT. (THE IZVESTIYA PICTURE AND THE FULL PRAVDA REPORT ON THE LUNCHEON MAKE THE PLAY FULLER THAN AT THE TIME OF THE SECRETARY'S LAST VISIT IN OCTOBER). THE EVENING NEWS LAST NIGHT RAN A 45-SECOND VIDEO-TAPE OF BREZHNEV RECEIVING THE DELEGATION IN THE KREMLIN.

7. LUNCHEON TOAST OMISSIONS. THE TASS LUNCHEON STORY IN PRAVDA IS NEARLY A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO TOASTS. BUT THE OMISSIONS ARE INTERESTING:

--THE SECRETARY'S TRIBUTE TO BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHANGE IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WAS CARRIED; GROMYKO'S TRIBUTE TO THE SECRETARY'S CONTRIBUTION WAS NOT.

-- PRAVDA OMITTED THE SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO BLACK-MAIL.

-- PRAVDA CUT OUT THE SECRETARY'S ALLUSION TO DOMESTIC CRITICISM -- PROBABLY FOR FEAR THAT IT COULD BE TAKEN TO APPLY TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

-- PRAVDA MADE NO MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO A THREE-YEAR TIME FRAME IN MAKING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IRREVERSIBLE.

-- PRAVDA ELIMINATED THE SECRETARY'S ASSERTION THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"NEITHER OF US CAN GAIN A PERMANENT STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE EITHER MILITARILY OR POLITICALLY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD."

-- THE GROMYKO TOAST IN PRAVDA CAME OUT SLIGHTLY LESS OPTIMISTIC ON AMERICAN INTENTIONS THAN IT ACTUALLY WAS; THE NEWSPAPER BLU-PENCILLED THE SENTENCE IN WHICH GROMYKO SAID HE THOUGHT THE AMERICAN SIDE SHARED THE SOVIET APPROACH ON SEEING THAT THE SUMMIT IS MARKED BY IMPORTANT NEW STEPS.

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